

REF
F30JUL76
C.R.

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1945 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceding years:- 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941, 1940 and 1939.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	4,576
Residential Population (Registrar General's Figure)	6,326
Number of inhabited Houses	1,776
Rateable Value	£39,530.0.0d
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£160.0.0d

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Legitimate - Male, 44 Female, 39)
Illegitimate - Male, 3 Female, 6) Total 92.

1945 Birth Rate	14.54
1944	16.75
1943	15.85
1942	11.06
1941	11.77
1940	11.99
1939	12.49

Deaths

Male 36. Female 33)	Total 69.
1945 Death Rate	10.90
1944	12.07
1943	12.62
1942	9.86
1941	11.36
1940	10.12
1939	9.92

Deaths of Infants under One Year

Legitimate - Male, 1 Female 1)
Illegitimate - Male, 0 Female 0) Total 2.

Infant Mortality Rate

per 1000 births:-

1945	21.7
1944	54.0
1943	38.8
1942	54.5
1941	23.2
1940	51.9
1939	27.3.

Still Births

Legitimate	Male, 1	Female, 0)	
Illegitimate	Male, 6	Female, 0)	Total 1

1945	Still Birth Rate	0.15
1944		0.00
1943		0.15
1942		0.29
1941		0.27
1940		0.31
1939		0.34

For purposes of comparison, the rate of the smaller towns of England and Wales are given:-

Birth Rate	16.1
Death Rate	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate	46.0
Still Birth Rate	0.46

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Diabetes	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	1	1	1	-	-	6
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Cancer	16	13	16	8	10	8	7
Vascular	5	9	3	5	12	9	-
Heart	20	22	22	21	27	21	21
Circulatory	3	2	6	2	3	1	4
Bronchitis	2	-	7	3	4	1	1
Pneumonia	2	3	3	2	2	3	4
Respiratory	1	-	2	1	1	2	1
Digestive	3	1	4	3	2	3	2
Stomach	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Premature and Infant Deaths	-	4	-	4	2	4	1
Suicide	-	4	1	3	-	-	1
Road traffic, violent causes and all other causes	9	15	11	10	14	8	6
Nephritis	3	5	-	-	1	1	-
Appendicitis	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Influenza	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Infant Dis.	-	1	2	-	-	-	1
Senility	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Birth Injuries	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified:-

	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Whooping Cough	-	4	16	-	12	1	-
Scarlet Fever	3	11	3	5	7	4	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Para Typhoid	-	7	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	4	2	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Chicken Pox	19	9	-	5	50	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Measles	19	17	25	6	144	4	-
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	5	2	13
Br ysipelas	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebra Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grandular Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	48	56	45	24	219	12	20

The Scarlet Fever Cases were treated at the North Herts Isolation Hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective schools and a few at the Doctors' Surgeries.

About 90% of an estimated population of 506 children under 5, and.

91% of an estimated population of 913 children between 5 and 15 were immunised.

TYPHUS.

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency, which is part of a scheme for North Herts.

SCABIES.

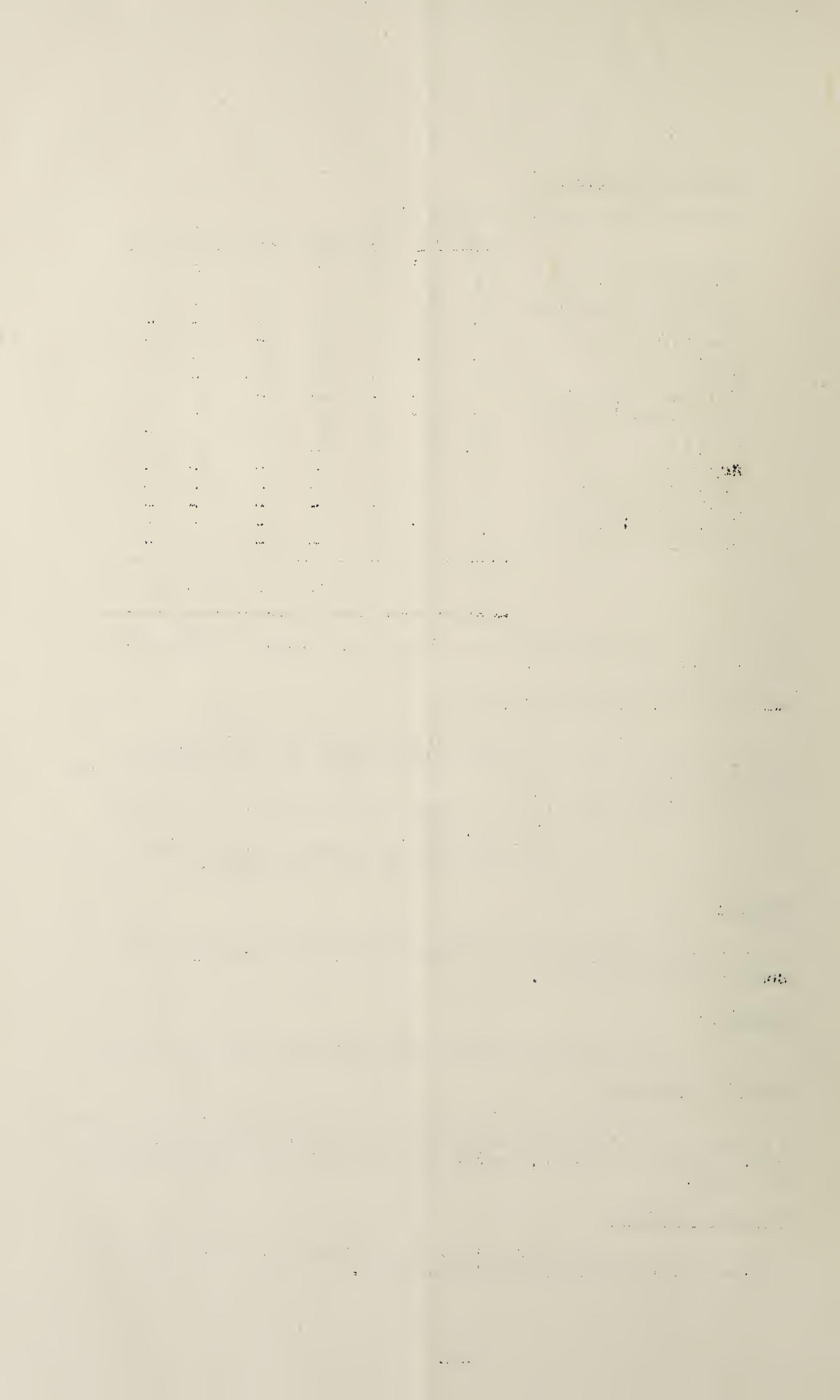
No cases of Scabies were reported during the year.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year children were examined at the various schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health, and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING.

A large percentage of the School children have their mid-day meals regularly at two centres.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

- (a) Medical. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.
- (b) Sanitary. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES, ETC.

Samples of water, milk etc., are sent to the Public Health Emergency Hospital, Hertford for bacteriological examination.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE.

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from head lice, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, WATER SUPPLIES.

The Town is supplied by 2 water works pumping plants both electrically operated with one steam stand-by from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to all houses with the exception of approximately 70 houses which are situated on the outskirts.

13 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

12 satisfactory
1 unsatisfactory.

WELLS- PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

18 samples of water were taken from wells for bacteriological examination, which were under suspicion of contamination and the results of the analysis showed 8 samples satisfactory and 10 samples unsatisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, AND SALVAGE.

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year, 40 tons were salvaged which realised £ 262

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3017420x>

MORTUARY.

A mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding Post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 1,015, divided as follows:-

for defects under the Housing Acts	204
for defects under the Factories Act	8
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases	58
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools and Public Halls	12
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order	52
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Vans, Food Stores etc.	123
For the prevention of nuisances	209
Inspection of Drainage etc.	22
Inspection of private wells and sampling	77
Inspections re: Rats and Mice Destruction	30
Inspection re: Condemned Food	70
Inspections re: Shops Act, 1934.	12

Miscellaneous.

Inspection re: Storage of Petroleum	9
Inspection re: Employment Agencies	4
Inspection re: Extortionate Rent	4
Inspection re: Development of Central Area	116.

HOUSING.

House to house inspection was carried out at a number of houses.

No private houses were erected during the year. On account of war conditions, shortage of labour, materials etc, this work has been somewhat restricted.

Although there has been an influx of Evacuees and work people overcrowding has been kept down to a minimum; only 10 cases were reported during the year, showing a percentage of 0.56 per 100 houses.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses, viz:-

Re: Drainage	2
Sanitary improvements, including drainage	55
Other work for the abatement of nuisances (by informal action.)	90.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

3 houses were treated for vermin which were eradicated by spraying with a liquid vermin mixture named "ReJlecide".

An inspection of furniture, bedding etc., was carried out, this being done by the local authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply (Special Designations Order) 1936

42 samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

Description	No of samples	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	2	1	1
Accredited	16	14	2
Pasteurised	1	1	-
Ungraded	23	12	11.

Meat and other Foods. There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughterings licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out. Centralised slaughtering still takes place at Letchworth.

Reserved Food supplies are examined from time to time also foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc., have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmen's vans, etc. are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

Table of new cases and Mortality for the year.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	4	1	2	1	4	1	0	0
1 - 5	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
5 - 15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
15 - 25	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
25 - 35	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
35 - 45	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
45 - 55	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
55 - 65	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
and over	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	1	NIL	1	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total No of cases on the Register								
30	9.	5.	9.	7.				

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in compiling this report.

Yours obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health,

